

## How God's Word is Spread, Part 1 - Acts 19:8 - February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

- We just read, and are about to study what could be perhaps one of the most instructive and effective ways to "spread the Word of God."
- In verse 10, we'll see how Paul reached all the Jews and Greeks living in the province of Asia so that they "heard the Word of the Lord."
- In verse 20, we'll see how "the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." Clearly we're in store for an invaluable teaching.

- This is part one of a series titled: "How God's Word is Spread." In this study, we will see several interesting ways that this happens.

### 1. By patient boldness (Verse 8a)

8a Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months,

v8a Paul goes into the synagogue, and for a period of three months speaks boldly as he preaches to the Jews and Greeks in Ephesus.

- It's interesting that Luke, by the Holy Spirit, would include the detail in his record, that Paul did this for boldly for three months.
- This is the longest period of time that we have mentioned, where Paul enters a town, then, enters the synagogue and boldly preaches.

- While this boldness is most certainly not out of character for the Apostle Paul, the length in which he stayed in Ephesus certainly is.
- Not only does he speak boldly for three months in the synagogue in Ephesus, he ends up staying for three years in the city of Ephesus.
- Perhaps one reason for the detail in the text is for it rise from the pages and teach us that God's Word is spread by patient boldness.

**Proverbs 28:1** The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. NIV

### 2. By persistent persuasion (Verse 8b)

8b ... arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

v8b We're told that while Paul is there in the synagogue for those three months, he "argues persuasively about the kingdom of God."

- Not only is Paul spreading the Word by patient boldness, but he's doing it by persistent persuasion as he argues his case, if you will.

- It's important to understand that Paul isn't being argumentative, rather; the word "arguing" means he spoke using "winning words."
- I suggest that it wasn't so much "what" Paul said, as "how" Paul said what he said when he argued persuasively in the synagogue.
- I find it interesting to note that the Apostle Paul would later write to this church in Ephesus asking for prayer for "winning words."

**Ephesians 6:19-20** 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. NIV